

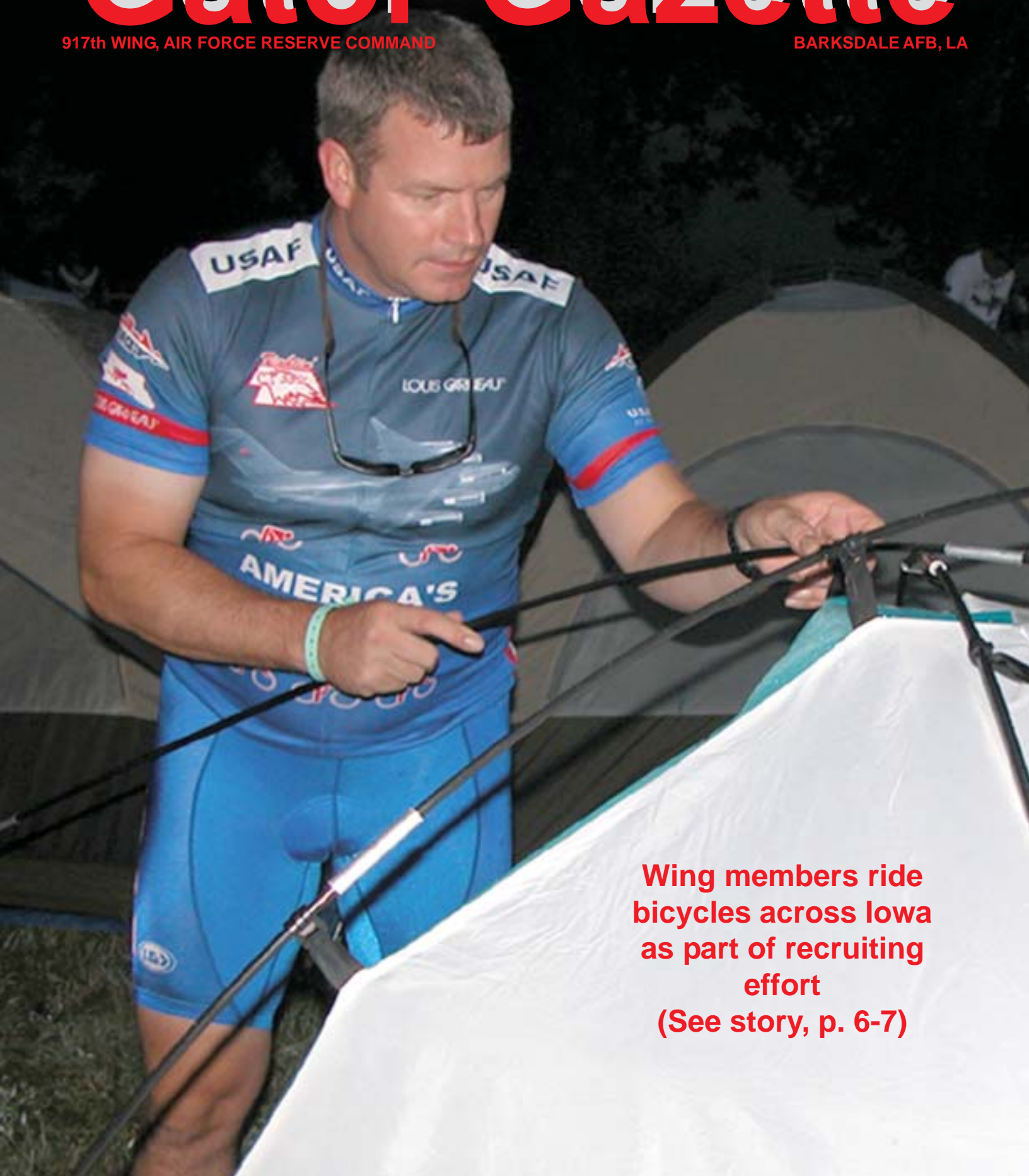
VOL. 10, NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2003

Gator Gazette

917th WING, AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

BARKSDALE AFB, LA



**Wing members ride
bicycles across Iowa
as part of recruiting
effort
(See story, p. 6-7)**



Gator Gazette

917th Wing Public Affairs
1000 Davis Ave. E.
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Barksdale AFB, La., 71110

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Office hours: Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., and UTAs 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Office Phone: (318) 456-9181 Fax: (318) 456-7444.

Front Cover: Maj. Marc Olson, 47th Fighter Squadron flight commander, breaks camp before dawn in preparation for the first 60-mile leg of the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa in July. (Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Steele)

From the Top

As the summer comes to an end, and children head back to school, I have some sad news to report on the Boudreaux family. It seems that Boudreaux and his wife had some problems over the summer and the judge just awarded a divorce to Boudreaux's wife who had charged non-support. The judge said to Boudreaux, "I have decided to give your wife \$400 a month for support." Boudreaux replied, "That's great judge, and once in a while I will try to chip in a few bucks myself."

On a serious note, I am happy to report that most of our mobilized folks are back home and going through the demobilization process. All of our folks can be very proud of their contributions to the War on Terrorism. In addition, our families and civilian employers need a pat on the back for their many sacrifices and unwavering support.

This Unit Training Assembly is going to be very busy as we have several special events. On Friday evening, Sept. 5, the 93rd Bomb Squadron will have an awards banquet to present Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom medals. Lt Gen. Bruce Carlson, 8th Air Force commander; Maj Gen. John Batbie, Air Force Reserve Command vice commander; and Maj Gen. David Tanzi, 10 AF commander, will be here to participate in the ceremony.

Throughout the weekend, a civilian contract team will be conducting a Culturally Based Safety



Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle
917th Wing Commander

Assessment and training process within the Wing. Their task is to identify the culture of the Wing, and relate this culture to accident and mishap prevention. The results of the visit remain in our Wing, so I encourage everyone to talk openly and truthfully to the team.

And finally, on Sunday afternoon we will formally say goodbye to Col. Bruce Kintner, Wing vice commander, as we retire him after 30 years of service to our great nation.

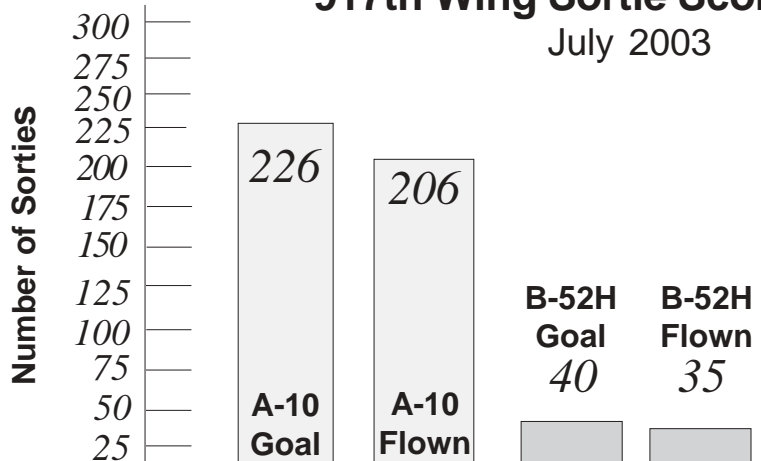


Let us know what you think

Readers are invited to provide feedback to the Wing Public Affairs Office on how effectively the *Gator Gazette* is meeting their needs. Go to the Survey Web site: http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/survey/survey_index.htm, and log on to the Base Newspaper Readership Survey. Results will be reviewed in one month.

917th Wing Sortie Scoreboard

July 2003



A-10 Mission Capable Rate 83.2%
B-52H Mission Capable Rate 63.9%

AFRC Goal 75%
AFRC Goal 65%

Show your boss the 917th Wing during Employer Appreciation Day Saturday, Nov. 1

Show your employer the mission of the 917th Wing, the Air Force Reserve and your role in the Wing first hand. Air Force reservists assigned here will once again have the opportunity to invite their civilian employers to visit Barksdale and take an orientation flight. The flight is not for family members or friends. Each reservist will be allowed to nominate just one supervisor, and an invitation and a complete schedule of events will be mailed to both member and supervisor. Deadline for nominations is Oct. 17.

Employer Information

Employer's name: _____

Title: _____

Company name: _____

Company address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Work phone: () _____

Home phone: () _____

Sponsoring Reservist Information:

Name and rank: _____

Unit/office symbol: _____

Weekday phone: () _____

I understand that I may nominate only one individual to participate and that the nominated individual must be in my chain of command.

Your signature: _____

Return this form to 917WG/PA, 1000 Davis Ave., E., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 212, Barksdale AFB, LA, 71110; fax number is 456-7444; or e-mail the required information to 917WG.PA@barksdale.af.mil.

Changing faces: *Deputy steps up, commander bids farewell*



Schmidt (far left), as Gen. George Patton, says goodbye to the troops, while Wolfe (left) speaks to the 917 MSG for the first time as new commander.



Borrowing the flying unit tradition of replacing the commander's name on the unit's "flag ship," Tech. Sgt. Christopher Bowman, 917th Security Forces Squadron policeman, replaces Col. Richard Schmidt's name with Col. Kevin Wolfe's on a humvee at the 917th Mission Support Group Change of Command Ceremony held on Aug. 3. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant)

Dealing with death prematurely

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bill Willis Sr.
Wing Chaplains Office

"Death always comes hard. A lingering death robs those who remain of the strength they will need to deal with the loss of a loved one. A sudden death finds us unprepared. The suicide of one we love, however, is the most difficult to deal with, for amid all the emotions that are normally expected when one loses a loved one, there are the additional feelings of real or assumed guilt and fear for the soul of the loved one. There exists also a sense of helplessness in the face of an accomplished fact, and confusion as to why such a thing could have happened." (Charles M. Chakour)

The Air Force provides an integrated system of chaplains and mental health professionals, child and youth services, health and wellness centers and family advocacy all working together to attempt to prevent suicide.

But the stark truth is that all our efforts at suicide prevention are fruitless if the folks who are distressed never take advantage of the services available. On the Air Force Link Web site: <https://www.af.mil>, there is a helpful AF news story by G.W. Pomeroy that points out a common misconception among airmen: "that getting help will damage their careers." Air Force Chief of Staff General John P. Jumper is quoted, "Please emphasize that PIF documents misbehavior, not medical or mental health visits. It is highly unlikely a voluntary mental health visit will have a negative career impact, but may in fact save one's career." More importantly, it might save one's life.

The Air Force community's suicide prevention and education has received national recognition and praise, but at its best it still depends upon all of us using the services offered and encouraging our fellow members to do the same.

"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in thee my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of thy wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by." (Psalm 57:1)

Editor's note: The story mentioned in the above article can be found on the Air Force Link Web site: (<http://www.af.mil/stories/story.asp?storyID=123005299>)

Suicide prevention: Knowing symptoms and warning signs

By Capt. Fernando Torres
917th Medical Squadron

The road to suicide is usually a long one. It does not happen overnight. Many illnesses are often associated with it including:

- ❖ clinical depression
- ❖ anxiety or bipolar disorder
- ❖ schizophrenia
- ❖ alcoholism

These illnesses can cause thoughts of hopelessness and helplessness, leading to suicide or suicide attempts. They may be recognized by the following symptoms:

- ❖ feeling sad
- ❖ hopelessness or helplessness
- ❖ worthlessness
- ❖ fatigue
- ❖ loss of interest in usual activities
- ❖ disturbed sleep and eating patterns
- ❖ difficulty concentrating
- ❖ loss of memory
- ❖ irritability
- ❖ panic attacks
- ❖ crying spells
- ❖ physical aches including headaches, stomach, neck, back or joint pains

The warning signs for suicide may follow, which include:

- ❖ talking or joking about suicide
- ❖ statements made like, "Everyone would be better off without me."
- ❖ preoccupation with death
- ❖ writing letters or leaving notes referring to death
- ❖ losing interest in things one cares about most
- ❖ unusual visiting or calling people to say goodbye
- ❖ giving away possessions or making arrangements, as if expecting to die
- ❖ risk-taking behavior, such as walking in front of traffic or reckless driving

If anyone recognizes symptoms of illness or warning signs of suicide, he or she should do the following:

- ❖ Ask the person about their symptoms or signs.
- ❖ Offer them direction to seek help.
- ❖ Refer them to the first sergeant, chaplain, Family Support, friends or family.

With recognition and referral of these illnesses and warning signs, everyone can help to prevent suicide.

In memory...

The
917th Wing
mourns the
loss of
Tech. Sgt.
Maria L.
Bonifacio,
who passed
away on
July 18.
Maria, an



Bonifacio

information management technician with the 917th Maintenance Squadron, returned to the unit in December 2002. She was previously assigned to the 98th Maintenance Squadron for four years. Before joining the unit, Maria served 4 years active duty. She was also a police officer with the Bossier City Police Department.

"Maria accomplished every assigned task with excellence and attention to detail. She had her own standard of excellence," said Tech Sgt. Bianca Sellers-Brown, 917 MXS Commanders Support Staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, "whether as a traditional reservist or a Bossier City police officer."

"She was a force to be reckoned with within the Bossier City Police Department," said Tech. Sgt. Ruben Delgado, 917th Wing Public Affairs staff writer and BCPD reserve officer. "Maria would impress you with how she stood up to people twice her size. I enjoyed patrolling with her. I will miss her."

"Maria was a great asset to the Wing and the Air Force Reserve and she will be terribly missed by the Air Force family," said Chief Master Sgt. Larry Sheppelman, 917 MXS superintendent.



Girl's selfless act helps others

By Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs

A selfless act of love...one committed by an 11-year old girl wanting to do her part to help someone else have a good hair day. Wells Audrey Russell, daughter of Maj. J.R. Russell, 47th Fighter Squadron instructor pilot, chose to grow her hair long, cut it, and donate the cut hair to children who, for whatever reason, suffer severe hair loss.

"I first heard about donating hair to 'Locks of Love' on a television commercial when I lived in Tucson, Ariz.," Russell said. "I decided to donate my hair after my friend, Tiffany, got her hair cut and donated it."

"Locks of Love," a non-profit organization which began in 1997, has helped over 1000 children since its first year of operation, according to their Web site: <http://www.locksoflove.org>. Children, like Russell, comprise over 80 percent of the donors.

Recipients receive custom, vacuum-fitted hairpieces made entirely from donated human hair from "Locks of Love." The vacuum fit is designed for children who have experienced a total loss of scalp hair and does not require the use of tape or glue.

Most applicants suffer from an auto-immune condition called alopecia areata, for which there is no known cause or cure. Others have suffered severe burns, or endured radiation treatment to the brain stem, in addition to many other skin conditions that result in permanent hair loss.



Russell adds that donating her hair has inspired others. "My friend, Bailey, in Mississippi wants to donate her hair now that I'm donating mine," she said. The sixth-grader at Cope



After her haircut, Wells Audrey holds the lock of cut hair that she will donate.



Above: Wells Audrey Russell, daughter of Maj. J.R. Russell, 47th Fighter Squadron A-10 instructor pilot, gets her hair cut by Laura Johnson, beautician, at the Barksdale Exchange Beauty Salon on July 10. Russell donated her cut hair to the "Locks of Love" Organization, an organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under the age of 18 with medical hair loss. Left close-up: The first cut of the scissors. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant)

Middle School is no stranger to charity. She has collected food and money for the poor, participated in a diaper drive, donated clothing to the needy and collected money for the American Heart Association, just to name a few.

Her parents, J.R. and Marilyn, say they are very proud of what she is doing.

"A lot of children aren't as fortunate and don't have nice things," said Marilyn. "We encourage our children to be charitable to those in need. So by donating her hair, Wells Audrey is able to give something of hers to children who really need it."

The hair grows back now, and in another year, Wells Audrey says she'll do it again.

"I'll donate my hair again, because I think it is a really great thing to do," she said. Her parents agree.



Pedalin' the Air

Team Barksdale rides bicycles across Iowa in recruiting effort

By Master Sgt. Greg Steele
917th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

The bikers packed their gear and hit the road. After two days of driving, they arrived in the rolling hills of Iowa to start the seven-day journey across the state on bicycles.

In July, three members of the 917th Wing, along with four from the 2nd Bomb Wing, rode bikes over 500 miles recruiting for the Air Force.

The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa started in 1973 with just a handful of riders. Today, the event has escalated into the largest, longest and oldest ride in the world. It draws over 10,000 participants each year.

"You just can't imagine the magnitude of this event," said Maj. Marc Olson, 47th Fighter Squadron flight commander. "There isn't a greater opportunity for recruiting and spreading the image of the Air Force to the American public."

The Air Force cycling team, known as Team Aim High, is comprised of members throughout the Air Force; active duty, Guard, Reserve, and retirees. This is the ninth year the Air Force has participated in the RAGBRAI, with a total of nine Air Force bases from across the country represented.

"This was my first RAGBRAI and I wanted to show my three teenage daughters their dad wasn't as old as they think he is," said Master Sgt. Richard Williams, 717th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief. "I also wanted to show others that members of the 917th are up to any challenge, even a 500-mile bike ride."

The starting point for this year's RAGBRAI was the small town of Glenwood, Iowa, where over 100 Air Force members assembled on the grounds of a local Baptist church to set up camp.

"It was like being deployed," said Master Sgt. Shawn Murphy, 2nd Medical Services Flight noncommissioned officer-in-charge and support team leader for Team Barksdale. "Our job was to break down camp once the riders left... then convoy down the road to the next town and set up camp where the next morning's leg of the



Olson readies his bike for the next day's leg of the ride.



Master Sgt. Shawn Murphy, 2nd Medical Services Flight noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Maj. Marc Olson talk to a local Oskaloosa, Iowa, resident.

Force message



race would begin.” Each day the riders would go by the “throws” van and load up on Air Force stickers, pens, visors, keychains, pencils and footballs to pass out to people as they rode the day’s route.

“Everywhere...someone from the Air Force was handing out souvenirs to people or riding by and throwing something to a kid standing next to the road,” said Tech. Sgt. Chris Marien, 917th Maintenance Squadron Aerospace Ground Equipment technician and support team member. The seven legs of the tour ranged anywhere from approximately 50 to 100 miles and took the riders through dozens of Iowa communities.

“It was an amazing sight seeing so many people welcoming our Air Force members to their communities,” said first-time RAGBRAI biker Brig. Gen. Simon “Pete” Worden, director of Development and Transformation, Space and Missile Center, Los Angeles, Calif. Worden stopped in a small town where a 7-year-old boy named Billy sought him out because he had heard a general was riding through. After finally finding Worden, the boy said he wanted to join the Air Force when he grew up.

On the seventh and last day of the ride, all riders from Team Aim High met two miles outside of their final destination, Ft. Madison, Iowa. They entered the city with two riders leading the pack, one holding the American flag and the other the Air Force flag. They stretched the length of a football field as the procession made its way into town. Other riders pulled to the side of the road to watch and let out a cheer, “Go Air Force!”

“RAGBRAI is such a great public relations chance for the Air Force,” said Christie Vilsack, Iowa’s First Lady. “Most people in Iowa don’t have much personal contact with people in the Air Force. A television advertisement doesn’t compare to hitting the streets and meeting the people of this great country face-to-face.”



Maj. Marc Olson, 47th Fighter Squadron flight commander, and 1st Lt. Reid Novotny, 608th Computer Emergency Response Team member, ride along a cornfield during the Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa. (Photos by Master Sgt. Greg Steele)

More info...

Air Force Team Aim High

www.teamaimhigh.com

RAGBRAI

www.ragbrai.org

Team space for Team Aim High is limited for 2004!

To join, call Maj. Marc Olson at 456-9155.

Wing news...

Reap what you sew

In order to be reimbursed for additional patches, name tapes and or ranks sewn on a uniform, certain steps must be taken.

Members must first see their unit resource advisor to obtain an Air Force Standard Form 1164. Blocks one through nine need to be filled out, with the member's signature on block 10 and the resource advisor's signature on block eight. Turn in a SF1164 with the original paid receipt (listing sewing costs) attached to it, to Jimmy Wiggins or Sam Jordan, 917th Financial Management Reserve Appropriation Office, in Bldg. 6803, Rm. 201B. Reimbursement applies only to uniforms for enlisted personnel and officers flight suits.

Luncheon to honor POWs/MIAs to be held

The 15th annual POW/MIA Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. at Hoban Hall. Do not miss this historical event, as the ranks grow thinner every year with the passing of Prisoners Of War from World War II. There is no cost for former POWs; for spouses and guests, there is a \$10 charge. Guest speaker for the event will be retired Col. Bud Day, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, and POW for 4 1/2 years. Day will autograph his book entitled, "Return with Honor," which will be sold at the luncheon. The 156th Army Band Combo will provide music and entertainment. A POW key chain, cup and commemorative coin will be given to POWs in attendance.

Base billeting is available for the night of Sept. 25 at a cost of \$24. Call retired Col. Steve dePyssler, Barksdale AFB Retiree Activities Office, at 456-4480, soon if you want to attend.

Family Care Plan must be documented

Single parents, dual military couples with family members and members with civilian spouses who have unique family situations, as determined by their commander or first sergeant, must complete an Air Force Form 357, Family Care Certification.

This form provides the Wing with the name(s) of who would provide child care for children of the members listed in the above paragraph, should they be activated or deployed. Contact your first sergeant for more information.

Putting new AF uniform to the test

The Air Force plans to wear test a new utility uniform beginning in January 2004. To get a closer look at the uniform and read more about the test process, go to the Air Force Link Web site: <http://www.af.mil/stories/story.asp?storyID=123005370>.

Patriots Day Celebration

A tribute to the nation's military, fire and law enforcement personnel

Sept. 5-6 on the grounds of the CenturyTel Center, Bossier City, La.

Scheduled attractions include:

Sept. 5

6 - 9 p.m.

A concert by the Louisiana National Guard band

Balloon glow (both Sept. 5 & 6)

Sept. 6

10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Hockey puck shoot, Alligator tent

Wood carver, Artist tent

Jewelry makers

Strolling magician

Food vendors & Interactive children's activities

A flyover by B-52 and A-10 aircraft

Military displays (free admission)

8:30 - 10 p.m.

Country music singer Buddy Jewell



Gatorfest 2003

Saturday, Oct. 4

**Horseshoe Casino
Riverdome**

Cocktails begin at 6 p.m.

Dinner follows at 7 p.m.

Dress:

Sunday best to semi-formal
(no uniforms)

Tickets:

E-7 and above: \$28 ea.

E-6 and below: \$23 ea.

Non-military members

(excluding military spouse or
significant other): \$28 ea.

Deadline for ticket sales: Sept. 26

(After deadline ticket cost: \$30 ea.)

To purchase tickets:

Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Federwisch
917th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
(456-8845)

Chief Master Sgt. James Enkey
917th Quality Assurance
(456-9028)

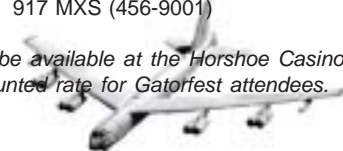
Chief Master Sgt. James Clifton
917th Maintenance Operations Squadron
(456-8193)

Master Sgt. Pete Bretzman
917 MOS (456-9082)

Tech. Sgt. Robert Carter
717 AMXS (456-9320)

Tech. Sgt. Stan Roberts
917 MXS (456-9001)

*Rooms will be available at the Horseshoe Casino
at a discounted rate for Gatorfest attendees.*



Vietnam Wall Experience

3/4 replica of Vietnam Wall

Sept. 19-21

Bossier Civic Center grounds

Opening ceremony

Sept. 19, 10 a.m.

Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle, guest speaker

Pledge of Allegiance,

additional remarks by

Ken Koval, VFW Post 5951 commander

B-52 flyover during opening ceremony

Closing ceremony

Sept. 21 @ 6:30 p.m.



The mandatory wear date for the new
service dress nametag changed from
Oct. 1, 2003 to Jan. 1, 2004.

New service-commitment policy to take effect Oct. 1

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Schoen

Air Force Reserve Command News Service

Starting Oct. 1, Air Force Reserve Command will implement a comprehensive, service-commitment directive for certain kinds of training, education and promotions.

"The Reserve Service Commitment Policy accomplishes two goals," said Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, commander of AFRC. "First, the RSC ensures a fair and equitable return to the Air Force Reserve and the American taxpayers. Second, it communicates to our members the period of obligated service they must complete before becoming eligible to separate, transfer or retire from the Selected Reserve."

The policy affects reservists in the Selected Reserve, the Individual Ready Reserve's Health Professions Scholarship Program and the IRR's Financial Assistance Program. The RSC also includes unit program reservists, individual mobilization augmentees and members of the Active Guard and Reserve.

Air Force reservists in the rank of colonel and below incur a service obligation when they attend formal training or education for 20 weeks or longer, receive a promotion in the top three enlisted grades, or enlist in the service for the first time.

The following events are those affected by the RSC with corresponding lengths of service required:

- ❖ Undergraduate pilot training – 10 years
- ❖ Undergraduate navigator training – six years
- ❖ Air battle manager undergraduate training – six years
- ❖ Non-prior service enlistment – six years or term of enlistment
- ❖ In-residence doctoral medical/dental education or technical training for 20 weeks or longer – five years concurrent with other service commitments
- ❖ Line, chaplain and judge advocate officer commissioning from the Academy of Military Science, McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn., and Officer Training School, Maxwell AFB, Ala. – four years
- ❖ Military Physician Assistant Training – four years

❖ In-residence advanced flying training – three years

(This includes initial qualification and re-qualification training for test pilot school students, navigators and enlisted flight engineers on fixed or rotary-wing aircraft. Applicable advanced flying training courses will be listed on the Air Education and Training Command Web site: <https://www.aetc.af.mil>. AETC pilot instructor training pilots who transfer without a break in flying to another AETC non-military weapons system aircraft, after completing initial training do not incur an additional commitment.

❖ In-residence Air Force weapons instructor course – three years for all Air Force Specialty Codes

❖ In-residence education or technical school training for 20 weeks or more – three years

❖ In-residence non-doctoral medical/dental education or technical training for 20 weeks or longer – three years concurrent with other service commitments

❖ Officer in-residence Professional Military Education at intermediate or senior service school – three years

❖ Direct accession of health profession officer – three years minimum term of service

❖ Promotions to E-7, E-8 and E-9 – two years or date of high year of tenure, whichever is less; Commissioned officer promotions are not affected per the Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act.

❖ Officer tuition assistance – two years per Air Force Instruction 36-2306, *Education Services Program*

❖ In-residence instructor qualification courses – two years

❖ Enlisted in-residence Professional Military Education – two years

❖ Ready Reserve Health Professions Stipend Program – a minimum two-year service obligation at a rate of two years for each year of assistance

❖ Graduate medical/dental education and deferred/re-deferred residency training through the Health Professions Scholarship Program and Financial Assistance Program – one year for every year of training with a minimum service obligation of two years

❖ Squadron Officer School, and Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala. – one year

Two or more Reserve Service Commitments will be served concurrently, not consecutively. When two or more RSC events overlap, the event with the lengthiest obligation will take precedence. (AFRC News Service)

917th Wing Salutes

NEWCOMERS

917 AMXS

Staff Sgt. Louis Bates, Fort Worth, Texas

917 CF

Senior Airman Byron Giles, Bossier City, La.

Senior Airman Brian Ridgeway, DeRidder, La.

917 LRS

Staff Sgt. Richard Jeffries Sr., Shreveport, La.

917 MDS

Senior Airman Carmen Burton, Shreveport, La.

Senior Airman Natalie Mass, Bossier City, La.

Senior Airman Alicia Schmidt, Haughton, La.

917 MXS

Senior Airman Marcus Gandy, Shreveport, La.

917 SFS

Tech. Sgt. Rickie Adey, Dixie Inn, La.

93 BS

Maj. Anthony Wrzesinski, Bossier City, La.

LDP Class 03-B graduates

Master Sgt. Gavin Smith, 917 AMXS

Tech. Sgt. Zina Coffee, 917 MOS

Tech. Sgt. Robin Lockhart, 917 MXS

Tech. Sgt. Shannon Moen, 917 MXS

Tech. Sgt. Roderick Perry, 917 MXS

Tech. Sgt. Donnie Plater, 917 MDS

Tech. Sgt. Stephen Taylor, 917 MDS

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Welebob, 917 MXS

Staff Sgt. Wiley Brown, 717 AMXS

Staff Sgt. Abraham Hobson, 917 CES

Staff Sgt. Richard Lindsey, 917 MDS

Staff Sgt. Paul Nadig, 917 MXS

Staff Sgt. Jody Pieper, 917 MXS

Staff Sgt. David Strozier, 917 MXS

Staff Sgt. Anthony Terral, 717 AMXS

Staff Sgt. Demetrius Wallace, 917 CES

Staff Sgt. Tony Yarbrough, 917 CF

Staff Sgt. Ivan Yelverton, 917 AMXS

RETIREMENTS

Col. Bruce Kintner, 917 WG

Master Sgt. John Eiland, 717 AMXS

PROMOTIONS

To Colonel:

Ed Walker, 47 FS

Looking to past leaders as legacy for future

By Capt. Janette Williams-Smith
917th Military Equal Opportunity

The 32nd Annual Tuskegee Airmen National Convention took place in August in Denver, Colo. This year's theme, "Leaders of the Past—Legacy for the Future," reflects the Tuskegee Airmen mission...to inspire young people to be outstanding achievers and leaders in a democratic society through social and educational activities. To achieve this objective, Airmen motivate, inspire and stimulate young people to study, sacrifice and attain self-sustaining status with marketable skills in the fields of aviation and aerospace.

African Americans fought bravely for this country from its earliest days. After being forced to serve in separate units from White soldiers, the U.S. Army Air Corps set up a special unit of African-American pilots in 1941. These pilots were trained at Tuskegee Institute, a famous college for African Americans in Alabama. About 450 of these Tuskegee Airmen flew missions in Europe as part of the "Tuskegee Experiment." Their job...to protect U.S. bombers from enemy aircraft. Not a single U.S. bomber was lost in 200 missions. The Tuskegee Airmen earned the respect of fellow pilots and military leaders, and in 1948, President Harry Truman issued an order stating equal treatment among races in U.S. Armed Forces.

These Airmen's accomplishments paved the way for future



Capt. Janette Williams-Smith, 917th Military Equal Opportunity officer, with Lt. Oscar York. York, an infantry officer, transferred for flight training at Tuskegee 441, 617th Bombardment Squadron in October 1944. York serves as president of the Los Angeles Tuskegee Airman Institute chapter. (Courtesy photo)

generations to reach their true potential in today's military and society as a whole. The sacrifices made by the Airmen during those trying times should never be forgotten.

To join the ranks of the Tuskegee Airmen...

Join the *Dr. Roscoe Brown Tuskegee Airmen Chapter*, a local chapter organized recently in Shreveport, La.

Dues: **\$100** for officers and civilians; **\$50** for enlisted military personnel

Contact Maj. Rod Haley, 8th Air Force Standardization Evaluation, at 318-**549-9195**, Capt. Candice Pipes, 2nd Mission Support Squadron, at 318-**456-2345**, or Capt. Janette Williams-Smith, 917th Wing Military Equal Opportunity, at 318-**456-9180**.

Voices: What do you think could be done to improve the Weight Management Program?



Senior Airman Christopher Wallace
917th Maintenance Operations Squadron

"Have structured fitness activities on UTAs and people's progress monitored monthly."



Master Sgt. Donald Brayboy
717th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

"It should be equal across the board with both the officers and the enlisted members."



Staff Sgt. Dyan Lesnik
917th Maintenance Operations Squadron

"We need organized exercise activities more than once a year."



Airman 1st Class Chimere Smith
917th Logistics Readiness Squadron

"You must conduct constant physical training to monitor what people can do."

917th Wing Training Schedule

September 6-7, 2003

Time	Event	Location
Saturday		
0630-0700	Sign-in	Assigned unit
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0700	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0700	Physical exam (flyers)	Base hospital (lobby)
0730	Detailed physical exam (non-flyers)	Base hospital (lobby)
0730-1000	Body fat measurement	Flight medicine
0730-1400	Immunizations	Base hospital, 1st floor
0730-1430	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800	Routine physical exam	Base hospital, 2nd floor
0800	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800 & 1300	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900-1030	Cultural Assessment (E-1 thru E-8)	Bldg. 6825, 3rd floor
0930 & 1030	Family Support briefing	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 144
1000	Training Managers mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B
1000	Unit Deployment Managers mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1000	First sergeants' mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1100	Suicide & Violence Prev.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1200-1330	Cultural Assessment (E-9)	Bldg. 6825, 3rd floor
1230	HRDC meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1300	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, 3rd floor
1400-1530	Cultural Assessment (O1-O6, no cmdrs.)	Bldg. 6825, 3rd floor
1400	Unit Advisory Council mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1400	MSG Top Three mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1500	MSS Commander's Call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
Sunday		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0730	Information Management Training	Bldg. 4238, STARBASE
0730	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0730-1430	Immunizations	Base hospital
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800-1000	Dental Class 3 profile reviews	Base dental clinic
0800-1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0800	47 FS Change of Command	47 FS auditorium
0800	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0800	Career advisor training	Bldg. 6815, T-Net
0830	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900-1100	Cultural Assessment Out-brief	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0945	EO First Duty Station Part 1	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1000-1030	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1030	Family Support briefing	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 144
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	EO First Duty Station Part 2	Bldg. 4714, 3rd floor
1300	Flightline drivers refresher	Bldg. 6825, 3rd floor
1400	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1500	Wing Commander's Call	A-10 hangar

1550-1610 Sign-out 1550--MXG 1600--MXS 1610--CES, MSS, WG

Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Joe Menna
Master Sgt. Don Copeland
1-800-241-4071

Monroe, La.

Master Sgt. Gary Johnson
318-323-1898

Shreveport, La.

Master Sgt. Ellen Shaheed
318-683-0331

Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Tech. Sgt. TeNeuss Land
501-987-7188

Texarkana, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Lucas
903-223-7030

Mesquite/Tyler, Texas

Senior Airman Kim Wilhite
972-681-6384/
903-534-8618

SERVICES

Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, 456-9205

Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. Newcomers in-processing
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. All customer service functions

Sunday

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. All customer service functions

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All services

NOTE: Customer Service functions include in/out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, vehicle decals, record reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
(reservations required)

Lodging

For information on official or space "A" lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 229, 456-9179

Friday - Sunday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Willis (985) 517-0955

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eubanks (479) 841-4641

Chaplain (Capt.) DeVaul (713) 502-1124

Red River Dining Hall (Bldg. 4631)

Breakfast 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

Lunch -

717 AMXS - 11:45, 917 AMXS - 10:30/11:30,

CES - noon, MSS - 11:45, MXG, MOS - 11, MXS

- 11:15, OPS - 11, SFS - 12:15, WG - 11:30

NOTE: You must show ID card,

newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness (Bldg. 4713)

Saturday & Sunday 8-11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours:

Saturday & Sunday, noon - 2 p.m.

Military Pay

Saturday and Sunday (main UTA) 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Gov. Travel Card Service

Bldg. 6803, Room 203, 456-9546

Monday - Friday, Main UTA 6 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Military clothing issue

Bldg. 6825, Room 218, 456-7177

Wednesday 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Saturday (Main UTA) 1-3 p.m.

Testing schedule

CDC/PME

Wed., 9 a.m., 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B

Sun., (Main UTA) 9 a.m. ONLY, Bldg. 6803, Rm.

123B - Course 00005A/00012G

Sun., (Main UTA) 12:30 p.m., Bldg. 4314, Rm. 309

Sun., (Alt. UTA) 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B

DANTES/CLEP

Thurs., 9 a.m., 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 152

Sun., (Main UTA) 12:30 p.m., Bldg. 4314, Rm. 309

AFOQT/AFCT

Sunday of UTA on a quarterly basis as scheduled
Call Wing Education and Training at 456-7496/
8066/7506 for times or scheduling requirements.

Gas Mask Issue

Saturday (main UTA) 7-9 a.m., Bldg. 6822

Pilots undergo water survival training

By Senior Airman Ebony Nichols
Wing Public Affairs

Every two years, A-10 pilots must participate in a refresher course on surviving should they have to eject from an aircraft and land in water.

This training, better known as water survival training, took place at Cypress Lake on Sat., Aug. 2.

A major factor of the training is to increase pilot awareness.

According to Capt. Ben Bowman, 917th Wing Life Support Officer, the training is given because pilots don't think about survival kit equipment until it is needed. "We want them to think about it much sooner," he said.

Before the training begins, Tech. Sgt. Joel Womack, 47th Fighter Squadron Life Support technician, briefs the pilots on each component of the (A-10 specific) life support kit found in the aircraft. During this briefing, pilots have an opportunity to try out the equipment and refresh themselves on their functions.

"The best part (of the training) is reviewing procedures for the detailed equipment," said Maj. Mark Olson, 47 FS flight commander. "Here there is not much pressure, but in a survival

situation there would be. So, the reactions and procedures should be automatic."

Pilots are taken out in small groups and must inflate their life preservers before beginning the simulations. The pilot's harness is connected to parachute risers attached to a jet ski, and he is dragged to simulate being pulled by an open parachute. Once released, the pilot is challenged to find his way from underneath a parachute. The pilots then practice survival and rescue procedures from one, seven and nine-man life rafts.

Overall, life support technicians said they were satisfied with the outcome. "It turned out well," Womack said.

Tech. Sgt. Brad Schoth, 93rd Bomb Squadron Life Support technician, raises the pipe as Maj. J.R. Russell, 47th Fighter Squadron A-10 instructor pilot, goes underneath a parachute to practice the correct technique of escaping from under a canopy in water.



Maj. Will Galloway, 47th Fighter Squadron A-10 instructor pilot, "pops" a day end flare after being directed to do so by rescue personnel in this particular training scenario during water survival training on Aug. 2. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant)



UTA Schedule

Main

Sept. 6-7
Oct. 4-5
Nov. 1-2
Dec. 6-7
2004
Jan. 10-11
Feb. 7-8
March 6-7
April 3-4
May 1-2
June 5-6
July 10-11
Aug. 7-8
Sept. 11-12
Oct. 2-3
Nov. 6-7
Dec. 4-5

Alternate

Sept. 13-14
Oct. 18-19
Nov. 15-16
No alternate
2004
Jan. 24-25
Feb. 21-22
March 20-21
April 17-18
May 15-16
June 12-13
July 17-18
Aug. 21-22
Sept. 18-19
Oct. 16-17
Nov. 20-21
No alternate

917th Wing
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